THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to facilitate allotment of coal blocks to potential entrepreneurs a Gazette Notification has been issued in July 2007 notifying the production of syngas obtained through coal gasification (underground and surface) and coal liquefaction as end uses for the purposes of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973. Guidelines for undertaking Underground Coal Gasification has also been published.

(c) to (e) Government has notified coal liquefaction as one of the end uses as mentioned in reply to part (a) & (b) above. Further, Government has allotted two coal blocks in Talcher coalfields, Orissa, one each to M/s Strategic Energy Technology Systems Ltd. (SETL) a joint venture of M/s. Tata Steel and M/s. SASOL of South Africa and M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. (JSPL). Each Coal-to-Liquid project is likely to produce 80,000 barrels per day (bbl/day) of oil and oil products, as per the proposals submitted by them.

Cross-border merger of companies

2632. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to review cross border mergers of the companies as reported in the Financial Express dated 3 June, 2009;

(b) the manner in which it is likely to affect the Indian companies;

(c) the steps being initiated to amend the Companies Act in this regard; and

(d) by when it is likely to be put in practice?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (d) The News Item titled "Govt. reviews ban on cross-border mergers" was published on 3rd June 2009 in the daily edition of Financial Express. The Companies Bill, 2009, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 2009, *inter-alia* provide for merger or amalgamation between registered companies under the proposed legislation and companies incorporated in the jurisdiction of such other countries, as notified from time to time by the Central Government, by mutual agreement. Hence, a foreign company may merge or amalgamate into an Indian company or *vice-versa*. The Bill has been referred to the Parliament Standing Committee on Finance for examination and report. It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government, may by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, after it is passed by the Parliament and receives the assent of the President of India.

Under reporting of profits by Telecom operators

2633. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received complaints against some telecom operators for fudging of accounts and under-reporting of profits;

(b) whether the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has been instructed to investigate into such complaints; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) The Government has received certain complaints against some telecom operators for fudging of accounts, etc. Comments received from concerned Registrar of Companies are under examination for further appropriate action.

Appointment of directors in companies

†2634. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to reduce the number of directors and appoint only experts as directors in the companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the criteria fixed by Government for appointing experts as directors?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Non-issue of AGM notices by companies

2635. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in a large number of cases Government/ private companies, including institutions like IDBI Bank Ltd., don't actually send their notices for Annual General Meeting to the shareholders, but only manage to receive certificates of posting from the postal authorities, thereby keeping the shareholders ignorant of the working of the companies; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken by his Ministry to ensure that agenda papers of the meetings actually reach the shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of IDBI Bank Ltd. or the Government. IDBI Bank Ltd. has informed that in addition to the physical mailing of the Annual Reports alongwith AGM notices to all the shareholders of the Bank, the Bank also publishes an advance notice every year regarding holding of the AGM in leading newspapers circulating all over India as well as in a newspaper circulating in the district where the Bank's Registered Office is situated.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.